REMARKS

Claims 1-45 are pending in the present patent application. Claims 1-7 stand rejected; and claims 8-45 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3 and 4 have been amended. This application continues to include claims 1-45.

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bowers, US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0126301 A1 (hereinafter, Bowers). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-3 in view of the following.

Claim 1, as amended, recites in part, "measuring a plurality of test patches to obtain color data associated with said imaging object; generating a signature color data lookup including only a subset of said color data; storing said signature color data lookup table in a memory associated with one of said imaging object, said imaging system, or an offsite location, for access by said imaging system; installing said imaging object into said imaging system; retrieving said signature color data lookup table from said memory; and combining said signature color data lookup table retrieved from said memory with said standard color conversion lookup table to generate a composite color conversion lookup table for use with said imaging object." (Emphasis added).

Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found in Applicants' specification from page 7, line 32 to page 8, line 4. As set forth in Applicants' specification at page 8, line 30-33, this subset is much smaller than standard color conversion lookup table 62, allowing signature color data lookup table 64 to be stored in inexpensive, low capacity memory systems, and allowing for fast processing, as well as fast transference of color shift correction data between computer systems.

In Bowers, paragraph 0017, it is stated that, "The input and measured color values, or raw data, are used to generate calibration data. The LUT stores a difference value or an adjusted value between the predetermined input values and the measured color value. The calibration data may be either or both the raw data and the adjusted value." Thus, the calibration data may include the raw data, but the raw data is not stored in the LUT. Thus, the LUT of Bowers does not include the calibration data, but rather the LUT stores a difference value or an adjusted value between the predetermined input values and the measured color value.

Thus, while Bowers discloses that an LUT stores a difference value or an adjusted value between the predetermined input values and the measured color value, and discloses obtaining calibration data as either or both of raw data and the adjusted value, none of the Bowers raw data, adjusted values, or the LUT stored difference or adjusted values are a "signature color data lookup table" within the context of Applicants' claimed invention. In particular, none of the Bowers raw data, adjusted values, or the Bowers LUT content is a signature color lookup table including only a subset of said color data as recited in claim 1 as amended, but rather, represents the full set of colors.

Although Bowers paragraph 0018 discloses that a pre-existing color LUT may be replaced, modified or updated with the LUT generated per Fig. 1, Bowers nonetheless does not disclose, teach, or suggest "generating a signature color data lookup including only a subset of said color data", as recited in claim 1 as amended. Bowers is silent as to partial calibration data that covers only a portion of a printer's color gamut, nor is it inherent in any manner that the Bowers scheme uses partial calibration data that covers only a portion of the printer's color gamut, since such does not necessarily flow from the teaching of Bowers.

Applicants emphasize that a significant aspect of Applicants' invention is that, rather than storing a full color conversion LUT or the raw data associated therewith, Applicants' invention employs a small set of colors used to characterize the object that is much smaller than the color conversion LUT, which Applicants explicitly refer to as signature colors and a signature color data lookup table.

Because the signature color data lookup table is a small set of colors used to characterize the object that is much smaller than the color conversion LUT, the signature color data lookup table may be stored in inexpensive, low capacity memory systems, and allowing for fast processing, as well as fast transference of color shift correction data between computer systems, e.g., via networks, as well as between computer system components (Applicants' specification from page 8, line 30 to page 9, line 2).

These advantages are not achieved by the Bowers apparatus.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Bowers does not anticipate claim 1, as amended. Claim 1 is thus believed allowable in its present form.

Claims 2 and 3 are believed allowable due to their dependence, directly or indirectly, on otherwise allowable base claim 1.

In addition, claims 2 and 3 further and patentably define the invention over Bowers.

For example, claim 3 as amended recites, "The method of claim 1, wherein said subset of said color data contained in said signature color data lookup table is formed by selecting a pre-determined number of even-spaced points over a whole range of points along each primary color axis of a plurality of primary color axes." (Emphasis added). Support for the amendment to claim 3 may be found in Applicants' Specification at page 8, lines 7-15. It is respectfully submitted that Bowers does not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter of claim 3, as amended.

Thus, claim 3 is believed patentable in its own right.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-3 are not anticipated by Bowers under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

Claims 4-7 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bowers in view of Chu, et al., US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0149785 A1 (hereinafter, Chu).

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 4-7 in view of the following.

Applicants incorporate herein by reference their arguments set forth in their previous Amendment, electronically filed April 18, 2008.

Claims 4-7 are believed allowable due to their dependence on otherwise allowable base claim 1, since Bowers does not disclose, teach, or suggest the subject matter of claim 1, as set forth above, and since Chu does not make up for the deficiency of Bowers with respect to claim 1.

In addition, claims 4-7 further and patentably define the invention over Bowers and Chu, taken alone or in combination.

Claim 4, as amended, recites, "The method of claim 2, wherein said generating step includes: generating a plurality of signature color data lookup tables for a plurality of imaging objects of a same type; subdividing said plurality of signature color data lookup tables for said plurality of imaging objects of said same type into classes of signature color data lookup tables based on a color similarity; generating a color class table for each class of signature color data lookup tables; assigning a class code to each said color class table; storing each said color class table in at least one of a first memory associated with said imaging object, a second memory associated with said imaging system, and an offsite memory, for access by said imaging system; and storing said class code in at least one of said first memory associated with said imaging object, said second memory associated with said imaging system, and said offsite memory, for access by said imaging system." (Emphasis added).

While Chu discloses that website 118 can be used to maintain multiple sets of ink cartridge characterization data and associated cartridge identifier data for each model of ink cartridge so that ink cartridge characterization data for any ink cartridge can be retrieved over the Internet (paragraph 0024), Chu does not disclose, teach or suggest classes of signature color data lookup tables based on a color similarity, much less generating a color class table for each class of signature color data lookup tables, as recited in claim 4.

In addition, Chu does not disclose, teach or suggest assigning a class code to each color class table, but rather, stores individual ink cartridge identifiers for ink cartridges with corresponding characterization data without establishing classes of characterization data and class codes corresponding thereto. Chu simply does not disclose, teach or suggest the aspect of claim 4 pertaining to classes, such as for classifying an ink cartridge into classes of ink cartridges with similar color characteristics (see Applicants' specification from page 7, line 32 to page 8, line 1), such as what the signature color data is used for in the embodiment of claim 4.

In the Advisory Action, regarding point #6, the Examiner asserts that "it is the differences between various types or models of printing cartridges (e.g., tri-color, black, photo, low and high fill) *that inherently classifies or differentiates the cartridges*." (Italicized emphasis in original; underlined emphasis added). However, Applicants' specification at page 6, line 31 to page 7, line 14, makes clear that the present invention pertains to imaging objects of the same type, *not* different types or models. Claim 4 has been amended to clarify in this regard.

Thus, the classes referred to in claim 4 as amended are not merely tri-color cartridges vs. black cartridges, etc., but rather, classes of objects of the same type, wherein the color shift correction compensates for differences in those objects of the same type.

Accordingly, Bowers and Chu, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest the subject matter of claim 4.

Claims 5-7 are believed allowable due to their dependence on otherwise allowable claim 1 and/or intervening claim 4. In addition, claims 5-7 further and patentably define the invention over Bowers and Chu, taken alone or in combination.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 4-7 are patentable over Bowers in view of Chu under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the pending claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (317) 894-0801.

Respectfully submitted,

/Ronald K. Aust, Reg. No. 36735/

Ronald K. Aust
Registration No. 36,735

Attorney for Applicants

Electronically Filed: June 17, 2008

RKA/ts

TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.
12029 E. Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46229
Telephone: 317-894-0801
Facsimile: 317-894-0803